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LEG-UP TO COMMERCIAL LAUNCH AS ISRO PLACES 36 SATS IN ORBIT

ISRO marks entry into global commercial launch service market by placing 36 satellites of UK firm into orbits

LVM3-M2 CARRIES BRITISH SATELLITES TO SPACE

ISRO's heaviest rocket LVM3-M2 placed the satellites into their intended orbits about 75 minutes after blasting off from Sriharikota at 12.07 am. All satellites separated from the rocket and were dispensed in nine phases over one hour, 15 minutes. The satellites belonged to OneWeb, a customer of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), which is ISRO's commercial arm

BHARTI GLOBAL AMONG ONEWEB INVESTORS

- It is for the first time that the three-stage launch vehicle LVM3-M2 is placing satellites in the Low Earth Orbit
- OneWeb is a global communication network powered from space, enabling internet connectivity for governments and businesses. Bharti Global is a major investor in OneWeb | P7

5,796 kg

THE COMBINED WEIGHT OF 36 SATELLITES CARRIED BY LVM3-M2

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FCRA licences to NGOs led by Sonia scrapped

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

THE Union home ministry has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences of two NGOs led by outgoing Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), for alleged violation of laws, officials revealed on Sunday.

Timed as it was before crucial state elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the political play behind the disclosure could not be missed.

The decision came after investigations by an inter-ministerial committee formed by the ministry in 2020. The probe team comprised officers from the ministries of home and finance, besides the CBI and the ED. Another Sonia-led NGO, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, was under probe but no action has it so far.

The Gandhi family is already under pressure from Central law enforcement agencies over the National Herald deal.

Unsurprisingly, the BJP went into hyperbole, claiming the cancellation exposed corruption by the Gandhi family. The NGOs had in the past received donations from China and other overseas sources, BJP leader Sambit Patra alleged at a hurriedly called media briefing at the party headquarters.

"The probe panel found many irregularities in filing income-tax returns, misuse of funds and money laundering. The RGF had received donations from banned Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, the Chinese embassy and the Chinese government. It also accepted contributions from many others accused of corruption, including Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor, during UPA rule. The cancellation was done in accordance with law and the Constitution," Patra claimed.

Rebutting the charges, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the BJP was recycling an old canard. "We will take whatever action it deems appropriate legally. Their activities are completely open and transparent... The Congress will not be browbeaten or deterred from continuing with the Bharat Jodo Yatra that resumes on Oct 27th after a 3-day break," he said.

India in Kohli-ty control

Men in blue began their T20 World Cup campaign with a memorable last-ball win over Pakistan at Melbourne. Set 160 to win, Virat Kohli's unbeaten 82 off 53 balls helped India get across the line in a thriller...

STARTING TROUBLE

As Babar Azam said at the toss, 160 was a par total on the surface. And once their batting line-up somehow managed to set that exact total as the target, it was always going to be challenging for India. And by the time Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf reduced India to 31/4 in 6.4 overs, Pakistan were well and truly on top on the night

90,293
Number of fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground who watched India vs Pakistan game on Sunday

MASTER APPROVES Kohli's innings proved to be difference in the end as his knock was hailed by Sachin Tendulkar as his best-ever

GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Pakistan had shown India the way earlier during their innings. They were 32/2 at the end of powerplay, before a partnership between Shah Masood and Iftikhar Ahmed brought them back into the game as they scored 99 runs off the last 10 overs. With only one specialist batter to follow, Kohli and Hardik Pandya cut the big shots out and kept India in the chase. They accelerated in the last five overs and their 113 runs partnership from 78 balls was the game-changer

A SIX TO REMEMBER

31 needed off 12 became 28 off 8 as pacer Haris Rauf breathed fire. The hope was beginning to fade for India before Kohli launched Rauf straight down the ground for a six that is going to be spoken about forever. Another six over fine leg meant India needed 16 off the last over

NEVER-ENDING DRAMA

While Pandya was dismissed off the first ball of Nawaz, the six India were looking for never arrived until the fourth ball with 12 needed. A waist-high full-toss (no-ball) was deposited over square-leg by Kohli. After a wide, the next free-hit delivery ricocheted off the stumps and India ran three to bring down equation to 2 off 2. Dinesh Karthik was stumped off the next ball, leaving it to R Ashwin. Nawaz sent in another wide to level the scores before Ashwin scooped the final ball to deliver a famous victory | P13

Xi gets his third five-year term, unveils new team

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHINESE President Xi Jinping was on Sunday elected general secretary of the Communist Party, giving him an unprecedented third term in office. He was elected by the the Central Committee that was reconstituted by the party congress on Saturday and packed with Xi's loyalists.

The Central Committee also approved a 24-member politburo, which in turn elected the all-powerful seven-member Standing Committee, which included the President.

Xi then paraded the members of the Standing Committee before the media. "I was re-elected as the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee," Xi said and introduced the other six, two of whom were from the previous committee — Zhao Leji and Wang Huning, the ideologue of Xi. The other four are Li Qiang, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi.

Li Qiang, head of the Shanghai CPC, is regarded as a close associate of Xi and widely expected to be promoted as prime minister in March in place of Li Keqiang who retired.

Interestingly, Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi was elevated to the politburo. P11

EXPRESS READ

Deputy Speaker Mamani passes away at 56

Bengaluru: Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Vishwanath Chandrashekar Mamani, also known as Anand Mamani, passed away at a private hospital on Sunday. He was 56. The Saundatti legislator is survived by his wife and two children. P6

B'lore Univ student who was hit by BMTC bus dies

Bengaluru: Shilpa Shree, the Bangalore University student who was run over by a BMTC bus on campus two weeks ago, passed away on Sunday morning. P5

Somanna 'slaps' woman, but victim says she wasn't

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

HOUSING Minister V Somanna came under fire from opposition parties after a video of him allegedly slapping a woman at Hangala village in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Saturday went viral.

Somanna lost his cool as the woman, Kempamma, who was part of a group of protesters, approached him.

Kempamma and other women were protesting, alleging that the authorities had identified families that already had sites as beneficiaries under a housing scheme. Somanna, who was on a day-long tour of border areas, was at the village to distribute title deeds under the programme.

A visual showing minister V Somanna allegedly slapping Kempamma | EXPRESS

Kempamma managed to reach up to Somanna, when he took a swipe at her and she immediately fell at his feet.

Somanna too apologised for his actions. P6

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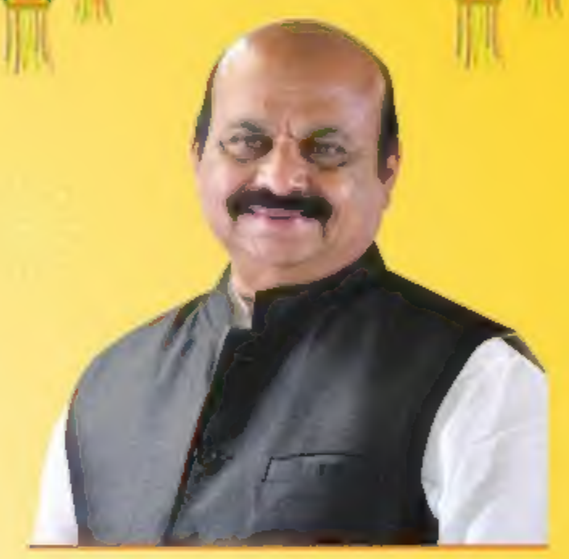

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

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